

IV. REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-12 are amended. Claims 1-12 are presented for further consideration.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-12 are amended to overcome the Examiner's objections. Applicant submits that claims 1-12 are now allowable according to paragraph 6 of the office action.

Applicant has submitted replacement figures 1a, 4a-c and new figure 4d each labeled as "prior art" to overcome the objections to the drawings. New figure 4d is submitted to illustrate a zoom lens assembly. No new matter is submitted since this such a configuration is described in the Description of the Invention, on page 5, lines 8-25.

In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$ 980.00 is enclosed for a three month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

Geza G. Ziegler, Jr.

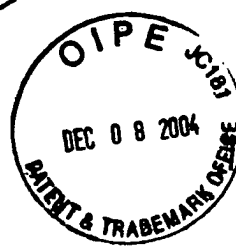
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Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512



4 December 2004

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Signature: Doris W. Reeman
Person Making Deposit